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TINY, GRAY INSECT (PSOCID)
ANNOYING, BUT NOT HARMFUL

Don't worry if you find tiny, grayish white insects resembling lice crawling over furniture, walls, clothing, beds, and other parts of the house, says _____, _____, _____.
(Name) (Title) (Institution)
These insects are psocids (pronounced sauce-ids). Entomologists say that though they are annoying they do no harm. They used to be called "booklice" because they often appeared in old books stored in attics, but scientists have never found a case where they have injured books or anything else, or carried any disease. Real damage to books, papers, and fabrics is probably due to the feeding of silverfish and cockroaches. Psocids are not true lice and do not bite human beings. Their food seems to be for the most part microscopic molds.

Dampness accompanied by warmth - long spells of hot, humid weather - may bring psocids. A little furnace heat to dry out the house generally dries out the psocids, too. They are often found in new buildings that have not had time to become thoroughly seasoned. In the average house, psocids are apt to be most abundant near or on damp vegetable products like straw mattresses, vegetable-fiber rugs or furniture, wallpaper, and pantry supplies. Good housekeepers naturally wish to get rid of these unpleasant little pests even though they do no real damage. Several applications of sprays, powders, and fumigants are usually necessary, because psocids find their way indoors after one lot has been eradicated. There's a new Government leaflet on the subject, giving several methods of control. Write to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., asking for Leaflet 189-L.

